

# WATER CONSERVATION IN LANDSCAPING REGULATIONS

## "GETTING STARTED"

The following steps are intended to help you get started with the City of Mountain View's new Water Conservation in Landscaping Regulations. In order to fully comply with the regulations, you will need to obtain a complete package from the City of Mountain View Planning Division.

### Step 1: Determine whether you are subject to the regulations.

If your project requires a Planning Permit and has new or rehabilitated landscape area of 1,000 square feet or more, your project is likely subject to the Water Conservation in Landscaping Regulations. If your project's affected landscape area is 2,500 square feet or more, you will need the help of a certified or authorized professional to complete the required documentation.

### Step 2: Choose whether to restrict turf area or calculate a water budget.

If your project is subject to the Water Conservation in Landscaping Regulations, you have two options for complying with the regulations. These options are listed below as *Option 1* and *Option 2*. Irrespective of which option you choose, you must also do the following:

- A. Adhere to the Water-Efficient Design Elements and Landscape Irrigation Maintenance requirements, and
- B. Complete all components of a Landscape Project Submittal.

Details of the Water-Efficient Design Elements, Landscape Irrigation Maintenance requirements and the Landscape Project Submittal can be found in the Water Conservation in Landscaping Regulations.

#### *Option 1: Plant-type restriction option*

The simplest way to comply with the Water Conservation in Landscaping Regulations is to meet the following two restrictions:

- A. High-water-use plants (e.g., turf) may not exceed 25 percent of the landscape area, and
- B. At least 80 percent of nonturf plantings must be California native or low-water-use plants.



#### *Option 2: Water budget option*

If you would like more high-water-use plants than is allowed under the plant-type restriction option (*Option 1*), you may elect to complete a Water Budget Calculation instead of complying with the plant-type restriction option. The results of your Water Budget Calculation must demonstrate that your proposed landscape will not use more water than an equivalent-sized landscape with equal parts high-, low-, and moderate-water-use plants. A complete explanation how to prepare a Water Budget Calculation can be found in Chapter 10 of the Water Conservation in Landscaping Regulations and in the Water Budget Calculation Worksheet provided by the City.



### Step 3: Prepare a Landscape Project Submittal.

Your Landscape Project Submittal must contain the following items:

- A. Water-Efficient Design and Maintenance Checklist
- B. Landscape and Irrigation Design Plans
- C. Certification of Installation
- D. Water Budget Calculations (if *Option 2* is chosen during Step 2)

A complete description of the required elements of a Landscape Project Submittal is contained in the Water Conservation in Landscaping Regulations.

